

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on April 15, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

Claim 37 has been amended; as a result, claims 3-10, 12-25, and 27-42 are now pending in this application.

The Examiner withdrew claims 22-25, 31-36, and 41 as being drawn to a non-elected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 40 is generic, linking, and allowable. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 12, 20, 21, 37 and 39 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses. As discussed by Applicant's Attorney and Examiner Nguyen in April, 2003, by moving one or more devices in a tray having a long-dimension side and a short-dimension side from the first inspection station to the second inspection station in a direction perpendicular to the long-dimension side allows (but does not require) the stations to be placed closer together, which allows one to thus reduce the travel distance and tray-transfer time, as compared to a system that moved the trays in a direction parallel to the long-dimension side. If, whichever orientation the trays are in, the trays are moved ten inches from one station (e.g., inspection, flip, and inspection) to the next, it would not matter to the distance which direction the trays were moved, however, if the trays were 10 inches wide by 20 inches long, the stations would each need to be spaced 20 inches or more apart to move the trays parallel to the 20" long dimension, but could be placed as close as 10" apart if the trays are moved perpendicular to the long dimension. Applicant provided further detailed explanation of this in the prior Amendment and Response, which should not need to be repeated here. Accordingly, the claims appear to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 3-10, 12-21, and 27-30, 37-40, 42 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art [discussed on pages 2-5 of the specification] in view of Jackson et al. (US 6,139,243). Applicant respectfully traverses. Neither Jackson nor Applicant's discussion of the prior art provides any previous recognition of a need to move trays in the short direction rather than parallel to the long dimension of the tray. It is only with the teaching of the present disclosure that this improvement is provided. Applicant's specification has provided substantial and adequate teaching to provide one of skill in the art a full and complete understanding of the advantages of the claimed invention over the prior art. The prior art is not capable of such advantages. The Examiner's dismissal of tray orientation as a matter of design choice to one of skill in the art based on criteria such as space optimization is only possible after absorbing the teaching of the present application. It is only with Applicant's teaching that any such problem and solution is provided. Applicant provided further detailed explanation of this in the prior Amendment and Response, which should not need to be repeated here. Accordingly, the claims appear to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Because claim 40 appears in condition for allowance, it provides a generic claim linking the species of claims 41 and 42, and thus to the species of claims 22-25, 31-36. Accordingly, the claims appear to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney 612-373-6949 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

ARYE MALEK ET AL.

By their Representatives,

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Date

16 June 2003

By



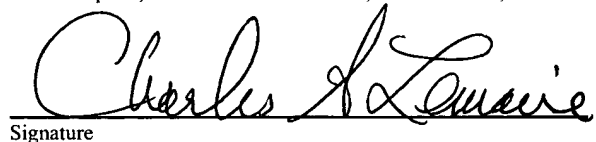
Charles A. Lemaire

Reg. No. 36,198

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O.Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 16th day of June, 2003

Charles A. Lemaire

Name


Signature